

THE Kentucky Kernel

Friday, February 17, 2006

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UK looks at race in chief hire

Administrator denies race played a factor in UK's decision to hire Vick

By Dariush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The controversy over the hiring of UK's new police chief is now a matter being considered by the Task Force on Racial Diversity and Equality.

"I think it crosses both race and gender lines," said professor of education J. John Harris III, who is a member of the task force, referring to recent issues over the hiring process which brought aboard UK's new chief, McDonald Vick.

The search committee and President Lee Todd were not informed of a discrimination lawsuit in federal court against Vick raised by a former employee.

The suit, raised when Vick was chief at North Carolina Central University, alleges discrimination surrounding the firing of police officer Deonna Renna Hooper, who was fired in 2002.

"She caused a car accident and left the scene," said Carol Jordan, who served on the search committee which submitted Vick's name to Todd and also serves on the task force.

Hooper also was disciplined for having a student arrested when Vick had ordered the student face discipline at the hands of NCCU's dean of students.

"She got in trouble for insubordination as a result of that act," Jordan said. Another lawsuit from 1988 named Vick a defendant in a discrimination lawsuit where a member of the NCCU police was passed over for the chief's position. Vick, who was named chief, was removed as a defendant because he was erroneously named in the lawsuit and had nothing to do with that hiring decision.

Information about the pending lawsuit reached the committee through the local media.

"I think the primary flaw was there was a disconnect between the search firm and the search committee," Jordan said.

Despite the allegations, Jordan said Vick was still an excellent choice for the job.

"He was an extraordinarily strong
See Chief on page 2

Diversity task force seeks input

By Dariush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Communication is the next step in the Task Force on Diversity and Equality's move to help cure UK's diversity ills.

Task force members discussed yesterday the use of personnel surveys, one-on-one interviews with faculty members, group meetings with the faculty and asking faculty members to participate in focus groups to hear the issues and get ideas on how to fix them.

"This is the research part of the task force," said Russ Williams, staff representative to the Board of Trustees and a member of the task force. "This is going to help guide the decisions we make."

The task force's efforts are quite simple, said Garry Bibbs, a professor of art and a member of the task force.

"What we're really doing is reaching out," Bibbs said.

Once the task force decides on a plan of action, they will move onto the next step.

"The next step is get that information, bring it back to the task force and see what kind of changes can take place."

Though getting people to feel comfortable talking about these kind of issues isn't easy, Bibbs said it's important for them to offer their opinions, which in turn will help the task force formulate opinions and changes.

"We want to find out what they're thinking... so we're sure we've addressed their concerns," said David Watt.

Also encouraging those in administrative positions to step up and take the lead is important.

"At some point, things have to
See Diversity on page 2



Brent Shafer, a second-year physician assistant student, worked one of the sample surgery stations at the College of Nursing yesterday. This exercise was timed and required moving 10 pegs from a board to a dish in six minutes.

Surgery goes small at training center

By Shannon Mason
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL



Brent Shafer, physician assistant student, tried one of the medical stations for the first time yesterday at the College of Nursing.

The opening of UK HealthCare's new education and research facility transformed into a week-long celebration, which started on Tuesday and concludes today.

The Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery, located in room 109 of the College of Nursing Building, is the only one of its kind in Kentucky and one of few in the country, said Dr. Raymond Gagliardi, director of the Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery.

Gagliardi said the facility is unique because it combines all surgical disciplines that use minimally invasive surgery.

"This facility is for gastrointestinal surgeons, but also for urologic surgeons, cardiothoracic surgeons, pediatric surgeons, gynecologic surgeons, and all other disciplines that utilize minimally in-

vasive surgery, Gagliardi said.

Minimally invasive surgery uses an endoscope, a lighted tube with a magnifying camera, inserted through small "keyhole" incisions in the patient's abdomen. It now accounts for a significant percentage of surgeries, ranging from gall bladder surgery, which is the most common, to heart bypasses.

About 200 members of the public and members of the medical field have toured the facility throughout the week to see virtual reality surgeries.

Gagliardi compared performing virtual surgeries to playing video games.

"You use some of the basic skills you learn playing an Xbox," Gagliardi said.

During the virtual surgeries a haptic envi-

See Surgery on page 2

Talent show will fund tsunami aid

By Wes Blevins
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK students will have a chance to showcase their talents tonight in this year's International Talent Night.

The event is part of UK's Cultural Diversity Festival, which runs Feb. 13-28. Pauline Chhoo, president of the International Student Council, said the event allows students the opportunity to showcase their talents in traditional dance, martial arts, skits and ethnic music.

"I want students to know international students bring in a different kind of diversity," she said. Different cultures "are shown through the dances and performances."

Council Treasurer Rohan Kalathia said the performances will include acts from various regions of the world, including Turkey, Africa, India and China. The event is important because it shows people of different backgrounds "coming together to show what their cultures have to offer," he said.

Kalathia has also helped obtain sponsorships for Talent Night from local ethnic businesses and responses have been "very positive," he said. "They like to see something like this happen on campus."

Talent Night will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Tickets for the event are \$5 and are available at the Student Center ticket office, or at the door. For each ticket sold, \$1 goes to a tsunami relief fund. Volunteers will also sell T-shirts, with all of the profits also going to the fund. There will also be prizes raffled off throughout the event.

More than a year after the tsunami disaster, international students "don't want to forget" the victims, Chhoo said.

Last year about 500 students attended Talent Night, Chhoo said. The council has also tried to spread the word among students about this year's event.

International Talent Night "is not just for international students," said Chhoo.

Chhoo said the event is educational as well.

"We can't represent all the countries of the world, but we try to bring all the cultures together to one place on campus," she said.

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UK 65, Ole Miss 61

Still streaking: Cats rally past Rebs

By Chris DeLott
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Jenny Pfeiffer knew the drought had to end.

After her UK team had gone five and a half minutes without scoring in the midst of a 14-point Ole Miss run, the junior guard knew she had to find a way to get the Cats on the board. She was fouled shooting 3-pointers on consecutive possessions and made four of six free throws to tie the game at 53.

Those shots started a 12-2 UK run that put the Cats (18-6, 7-4 Southeastern Conference) ahead for good in last night's 65-61 win over the Rebels (14-11, 4-8 SEC).

"It was huge," UK coach Mickie DeMoss said of Pfeiffer's foul shots. "We had hit a dry spell and

couldn't get anything going. That helped us get things started."

Guard Samantha Mahoney agreed.

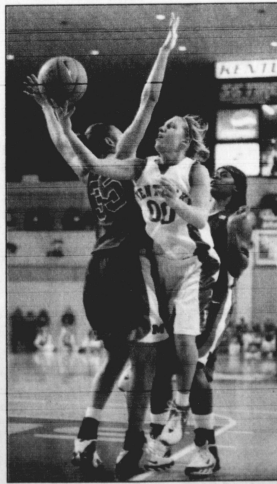
"When you go a long time without a basket, it's crucial to try to get to the free throw line to get things going again," she said. "We did that."

Mahoney, who led the team with 16 points, said the victory was huge for a Cats team that was predicted in the preseason to finish ninth.

"It means a lot," she said. "When that prediction came out we were upset about it. We didn't want to finish ninth or anywhere near it. We're doing that."

The win, which assures UK of its first non-losing season in conference play since 1999, adds an-

See Hoops on page 3



UK freshman guard Carly Ormerod attempts a layup between Ole Miss sophomore forward Carla Bartee and freshman center Shawn Goff during the first half of the Cats' 65-61 win last night in Memorial Coliseum.

KEITH SHAWLEY | STAFF

Chief

Continued from page 1

candidate," she said, adding the committee and "did not know about the lawsuit even though Vick told the search firm and several campus officials. "He did not hide it."

A Feb. 7 editorial from the Lexington Herald-Leader that said UK may be "overly eager" to hire blacks was

also a cause for concern to the committee, and UK officials denied that allegation.

"It infuriates me that the Herald-Leader said that in an editorial," Jordan told the task force. "That absolutely is not a fair representation at all."

Other task force members were skeptical about the lawsuit itself.

"Just because someone makes an allegation doesn't mean it's true. It's pretty easy to sue," said UK Law Professor Roberta Harding, adding that the appearance

of the situation is especially troubling. "It (makes it seem) like he was trying to hide something and the search firm was trying to hide something."

Members of the committee said they want to review the details.

"We want everybody to understand all the facts, because right now there's rumor and innuendo," Harding said. "It doesn't mean he did it."

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Diversity

Continued from page 1

change in terms of accountability," said Phil Kraemer, associate provost for undergraduate education and a member of the task force.

J. John Harris III, a member of the task force and a

professor of education, agreed.

"If the deans do not take the lead and do what is necessary to cultivate a feeling of belonging at the university, we are going to keep experiencing the in-and-out migration," he said. "We have to make them accountable."

But before all that can take place, discussion has to start, which task force chairman William Turner said he

feels can be more effective. "Sometimes just sitting on the porch talking, you get a lot more done," he said.

The most important thing is to seize the opportunity, Turner said.

"This is a critical turning point at the university and we just can't let it be done the same old way."

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Surgery

Continued from page 1

environment — which is based on the sense of touch — is created to allow the surgeon to feel the internal organs, as though they were operating inside the patient.

Gagliardi said this type of environment lets students and residents practice reacting to the two types of cues involved in minimally-invasive surgery, visual and haptic/tactile, allowing students and residents to learn surgical skills before they go into the operating room.

Dr. Ji-Hui Li, a visiting professor from China, said a facility like this is very valuable to students, since no facilities like this exist in China, and students must learn by observing.

"The residents have a lot of knowledge of the mind, but not of the hands," Li said. "This facility gives students and residents the chance to

get hands-on experience without stepping foot in an actual operating room."

The facility also allows live surgery broadcasts to five to 10 people in a conference room or as many as 200 people in a lecture hall next door, Gagliardi said. Those who visited the center Wednesday morning saw a live surgery performed by Dr. Joseph Iacono, a pediatric surgeon. Doctors must still get patient permission before broadcasting the procedure.

Gagliardi said first-year medical students get to watch a live surgery broadcast as part of an anatomy lecture.

The function of the facility will be to conduct research and to educate medical and nursing students as well as residents.

Jim Hoskins, the facility's lab manager, said there are seven workbenches that simulate the same environment as that of a minimally-invasive surgical operating room. Each workbench has real, functional equipment. The students and residents are not operating through incisions

in a human abdomen, but through incisions in pieces of vinyl.

"This gets students used to working in a 3-D environment with 2-D feedback," Hoskins said.

The curriculum for students involves successfully completing about 16 tasks in certain amounts of time, Hoskins said. The first task is inserting a pipe cleaner into a small tube using the correct surgical tools while watching the view a screen above the operating area.

Hoskins said the task may sound simple and use cheap materials, but it teaches students skills they will need to perform these surgeries.

No registration is required to tour the facility today. If members of the public or members of the medical field would like to see the facility after today, they are encouraged to call 859-323-5450 to make arrangements.

"Give us a call," Gagliardi said. "And we'll set you up with a tour."

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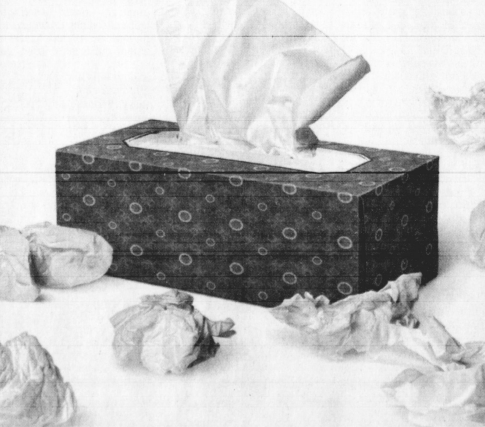
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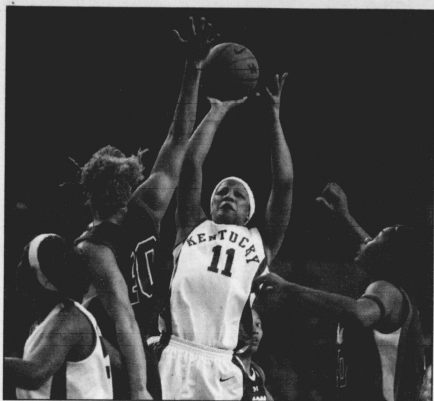
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UK sophomore Samantha Mahoney attempts a jumper during the first half of the Cats' 65-61 win over Ole Miss last night in Memorial Coliseum. Mahoney led the Cats with 16 points.

Ole Miss (61)										
NAME	mp	pts	3pt	ft	a	pf	stl	blk	pts	pts
Mincy	31	12	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	4	5
Forrest	31	12	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0
Answered	31	3-6	0-1	0-4	1	0	0	0	3	4
Johnson	30	9-12	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	5	12
Price	38	5-11	0-0	4-9	2	2	0	0	5	14
Barbee	19	5-13	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	15
Jones	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wortham	10	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Tipton	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goff	22	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	4	2	0	5
TEAM	200	24-50	9-19	4-14	5	16	30	41		

UK (65)										
NAME	mp	pts	3pt	ft	a	pf	stl	blk	pts	pts
Humphrey	25	4-8	1-1	1-2	3	3	13	10		
Elliot	18	6-11	0-0	0-0	0	4	5	12		
Ormerod	36	7-8	2-5	0-0	5	0	4	6		
Mahoney	38	6-14	1-4	3-4	7	3	15			
Bozeman	9	5-11	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0		
Bobby	21	4-10	0-0	1-2	0	2	6	9		
Alton	19	1-6	0-1	0-0	2	1	3	2		
Humphrey	18	1-6	0-4	0-0	1	0	1	3		
Perry	6	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0		
TEAM	200	25-46	4-16	11-18	14	44	65			

Ole Miss	3pt	3pt	3pt
.....
UK

Field goal shooting: UM 48, UK 37.9. Free-throw shooting: UM 26.6, UK 61.1. Technical fouls: Turnovers: UM 19, UK 14.3. Missions: UM 3, UK 0. Missions: UM 4, UK 2. Missions: Humphrey: Official: Sally Bell; Mark Zentz; Eddie Novak. Attendance: 5,965. Records: UM 14-11 (4-8), UK 15-6 (7-4).

Hoops

Continued from page 1

other block to DeMoss' rebuilding effort. Ole Miss coach Carol Ross, a former UK head coach, praised DeMoss for her work with the program. "I think it's not just what she's done this year, but the progression (over three years)," Ross said. "She's getting to enjoy the hard work. She's done a heck of a job and there's not another coach in the league who has done it any better or any

faster than she has." But Ross said she is not surprised by the speed with which DeMoss has rebuilt the program. "It's not about Kentucky," she said. "It's about DeMoss. She's really good at what she does." The Cats overcame poor shooting in the first half to post its third consecutive victory. It is the first time UK has won three consecutive conference games since the 1994-95 season. The Cats shot 35 percent in the first frame, firing 14-40 from the field. Ole Miss led much of the way in that half, thanks in large part to the hot shooting of guard Ashley

Johnson. She was 6-for-7 in the half and made all three of her 3-point attempts. She finished the game with 22 points. "We knew she had been playing well," DeMoss said, "but we didn't expect her to come out on fire like she did." DeMoss said UK was able to stay in the game by cutting down on its turnovers. The Cats had four in the first half and 10 for the game. "We weren't shooting the ball well, but we were able to take care of the ball and play good defense and rebound," DeMoss said. With the victory, UK

greatly improved its chances of finishing in the top four in the league and earning a first round bye in the conference tournament. The Cats' next two games are on the road. They travel to Starkville, Miss., to face Mississippi State on Sunday and then play at Vanderbilt next Thursday before finishing the regular season with a home date against Alabama at Rupp Arena on Feb. 26.

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Cats sweep doubleheader

By Ryan Kuhn
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK used a combination of dominant pitching and streaky hitting to sweep a doubleheader with Kent State yesterday afternoon at the UK Softball Complex.

UK rode the pitching of Amy Kendall and Lydia Pierce to a 9-0 five-inning victory in the team's home opener. The duo combined to allow two hits and strike out eight opposing batters.

"Amy Kendall did a great job in game one," said UK head coach Eileen Schmidt. "Nobody hit her hard the entire game."

UK scored seven runs in the bottom of the first inning to build an insurmountable lead. Meghan Cooper was two for three with a double and Megan Glenn had three RBIs to lead the Cats on offense.

Despite the early spark, the bats cooled off after the first. Coach Schmidt was a little disappointed with UK's up and down day at the plate. "We need to be more consistent," she said. "We were lucky to get those seven quick runs because our bats cooled off a lot after that."

Pierce entered the game in the final inning to secure the win, ending the game on a double play. The second game of the twin bill became a pitcher's duel between UK's Jessica Trueblood and Kent State's

Brittney Robinson. Trueblood was the SEC Freshman of the Week following her performance at last week-end's UNLV Alexis Resort Kickoff Tournament in Las Vegas.

After two and a half innings of shutout ball, Glenn led off the home half of the third with a single and eventually scored on a balk. Catcher Alli Eckman followed that with a towering solo home run in the bottom of the fourth.

Eckman's second long ball of the season tied her for the team lead with shortstop Brooke Marnitz and gave Trueblood all four of the runs she would need in the 2-1 win.

"J.T. struggled a little bit early on but she eventually found her rhythm," said Schmidt. "She likes a fast pace when she is pitching and Kent State did a good job early on slowing the tempo of the game."

Trueblood struck out nine batters on her way to a complete game two-hitter. Kent State's only run of the afternoon came on a two out double by catcher Ashley Fairhurst in the top of the sixth inning. Golden Flashes' second baseman Jessica Kramb scored from first on the play, beating the relay throw from Marnitz.

While she was hoping for a better performance, Schmidt was happy with yesterday's results.



KEITH SMILEY / STAFF

UK junior infielder Brooke Marnitz tosses across the diamond during the first game of yesterday's doubleheader against Kent State.

"It's hard to win when you only get two or three hits, but you take any victory you get," she said. "A win is a win."

The Cats improved to 5-2 on the season and are beginning to receive national attention. Following a 6-1 victory over No. 13 Washington and a late-inning loss to No. 12 ranked Oklahoma in Las Vegas, UK was ranked 30th

in the nation according to this week's USA Today softball poll. "We had a good weekend, but not a great one," said Coach Smith. "We need to keep improving." UK will attempt to sweep its series with Kent State at 1 p.m. today at the UK Softball Complex.

E-mail: sports@kykernel.com

Sexual Health Study: Women Only

This anonymous survey invites UK and LCC female students to take part in a survey about sexual behaviors and beliefs pertaining to sexually transmitted diseases and cervical cancer. Women who self-identify as lesbians are especially encouraged to participate in this survey. To participate you must:

- Be female between 18-25 years of age
- Have had sex with 2 or more partners (male or female) in the past 3 months
- Be a full time UK or LCC student

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IN OUR OPINION

Homeowners don't deserve alarm fines

Lexington homeowners with alarm systems may not be aware of a city ordinance enacted last July that could lighten their wallets if they aren't careful.

In an effort to cut down on false alarms the Urban County Council adopted a fine system that penalizes alarm owners when police are dispatched to a home and it turns out a break-in was not actually attempted.

Homeowners can be fined \$25 to \$50 for their fourth false alarm violation and up to \$500 for subsequent violations. But that's if they have bought a \$15 renewable permit from the city. Without the permit, first time offenders are hit with a \$100 fine, and an additional \$100 on top of the set fine that permit holders pay for each false alarm after their third.

There's a chance that anyone who had a system installed before last July is unaware of the city permit because the burden of informing alarm owners of the ordinance lies with the individual alarm companies.

For the most part, this ordinance is a reasonable attempt to help save city police from wasting their time responding to a false alarm when a real emergency might be occurring somewhere else in Lexington.

Sgt. April Brown, the city's Alarm Administrator said Lexington police officers spend 30-40 minutes on the average alarm call.

If the alarm company notifies the police that an alarm has false before they reach the scene then owners aren't subject to a fine.

If officers reach the home and don't find physical evidence of an attempted break-in the alarm is considered false. Brown said broken

windows or a kicked-in door are two main signs officers look for when determining the validity of an alarm. She also said that in 2004 police responded to 14,269 alarm calls in the city, 93.98 percent of which turned out to be false.

But one of the purposes of an alarm system is to scare intruders away before a break-in occurs. A door doesn't necessarily have to be kicked in and a window doesn't have to be broken for an alarm to be tripped. Therefore, according to the law, there's the potential that a real crime could be considered a false alarm if the intruder is scared away before physically damaging a home in a robbery attempt.

There's no real way to recognize this situation unless a neighbor witnessed it, so it would be hard to account for it in the law.

Police shouldn't have to waste their time responding to erroneous alarm calls when there are plenty of real crimes being committed all over Lexington. But residents shouldn't be discouraged from protecting their homes because they might have to pay a fine if a robbery is thwarted.

In order to avoid potentially penalizing a homeowner when there truly was an emergency, the city's Alarm Administrator said Lexington police officers spend 30-40 minutes on the average alarm call.

If the alarm company notifies the police that an alarm has false before they reach the scene then owners aren't subject to a fine.

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windows or a kicked-in door are two main signs officers look for when determining the validity of an alarm. She also said that in 2004 police responded to 14,269 alarm calls in the city, 93.98 percent of which turned out to be false.

Higher speed limits entail responsibilities for drivers

The state Senate passed a bill Wednesday 11-0 that would raise the state speed limit to 70 mph. This measure, if it passes through the General Assembly, would put Kentucky among 30 other states with maximum speed limits of at least 70 mph.

Although the argument against the hike cites the risk of an increased crashes and fatalities related to automobile accidents, a greater speed limit would actually benefit Kentucky highways.

For anyone who has driven on Interstates 75 or 64, it's no secret that not many drivers adhere to the current maximum speed limit of 65 mph. The increased speed limit will help decrease the discrepancy between drivers who are already driving 70 mph and those who are driving the current speed limit.

Additionally, research has shown that 70 mph is a reasonable speed for rural interstates and parkways, which are the roadways the bill will apply to.

Jerry Pigman, manager of the traffic section of UK's transportation center told the Huntington

Herald-Dispatch the crash rates on interstates are one-fourth or one-fifth of those on rural roads. In effect, increasing speed limits on interstates would be "increasing speeds on the safest roads we have," he said.

Unfortunately, an increased speed limit means that some drivers who care to drive even faster meaning that law enforcement will need to be extra vigilant in punishing abusers of the new speed limit and keeping highways safe for drivers.

Proponents of raising speed limits argue today's cars are built better with safety features such as airbags and seatbelts. Drivers will need to remember seatbelts can only work if they're used.

Part of Eric Fletcher's State of the Commonwealth address concerned enacting a primary seat belt law. This would allow police to pull over motorists for no other reason than not wearing seat belts.

Kentucky drivers should keep this in mind if they're increasing speeds later this year: you can drive faster, but drive safer.

Democratizing the Middle East might not be worth it

In the four and a half years since September 11 and the almost three years since the beginning of the Iraq War, the mainstream discourse on American foreign policy has been teeming with talk of a democratized Middle East.

State of the Union addresses, campaign speeches, debates between pundits, dinner table conversations ... you name it, Americans want a democratized Middle East. Or do we?

The Bush administration, still in a delusional state after a few successful Iraqi elections, would have you believe that democracy is taking root in Iraq, where it will thrive. But we're not just talking about Iraq, a country

which we had to invade and force free democratic concepts to.

Bush's bold foreign policy initiative aims to turn the entire region into a coalition of free societies, making them compatible with the Western world and thus making the United States safe from radical Islamic terrorism.

In the past few weeks, we've seen the pitfalls of this idealistic approach to bringing about reform in the Middle East.

The democratic election of a Hamas regime in Palestine has outraged many world leaders, who decry the militant organization's rise to power despite the legitimacy of the elections. In order to combat the new regime, the U.S. House has voted, 418 to 1, to cut off all aid to the Palestinian Authority, under the rationale that taxpayers' money should not be used to fund a government that calls for the destruction of Israel. The bill already passed the Senate earlier this month.



BRAD STURGEON, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Administration all bark, no bite on diversity

There has been a good deal of press coverage and beating of chests lately about the importance of diversity at the University of Kentucky. Commissions, task forces, and work groups abound, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of dollars suddenly found to address the issues.

So, where were members of the President's staff, the commissions, the task forces, the work groups, and others who claim interest in diversity this past week? I can tell you where most, if not all of them were NOT.

They were not at the Cultural Diversity Festival kickoff event featuring the performance of thought provoking diversity vignettes by the Sane and Sober Theater group. And they missed an excellent opportunity to listen and learn.

Nor did any faculty members serve on the Cultural Diversity Festival Committee that has put in so much time and effort to coordinate these many wonderful activities.

One has to wonder if they are too busy talking to listen, too busy meeting to participate.

KAY ROBERTS
UK staff

Snow is not all it's cracked up to be

I am writing in response to Wes Blevins' column from Wednesday's Kernel. His first bullet point basically laments the lack of snow Lexington has received this winter, despite the weatherpersons' (political correctness for the loss) predictions for large snow storms.

I want to ask: just what are you thinking, Wes? Snow is cold. It's wet, making treks across uncleared sidewalks unpleasant when the edges of your jeans become wet as well and chill you long after you've gone indoors. Moreover, because it meets the two requirements for driving natural disaster in Lexington—it's water, and it falls from the sky—it causes more accidents than my two year old daughter in the middle of potty-training.

As I write this email, weather.com claims the temperature is 45°F and will reach 59°F later. I welcome this continued springtime during winter. I'm tired of walking to and from my car in the biting wind over treacherous sidewalks. I'm sick of having to deal with my van's heater which apparently has two settings: mildly above freezing, and burn initiation.

I'm fed up with having to squint or dig out my prescription sunglasses in the middle of the day when the snow increases the world's brightness by a factor of infinity minus three. And don't even get me started on the chore of throwing eight layers of clothing on my two older kids before they go outside, only for them to come back in three minutes later announcing their need for help undressing so they can use the bathroom.

I left Washington State's horrid winters, and have never regretted it. If Blevins wants snow, I suggest he look into an excursion to one of the northern states. We Kentuckians have no room for his white and glittery blasphemy. The ancient Greeks' myths claimed that winter was caused by the earth goddess Demeter's sorrow while her daughter Persephone was forced to remain apart from her for so many months. Blevins would have the mother and daughter remain separated longer, merely so he can enjoy some precipitation. If that isn't evil incarnate, then I don't know what is.

RED L. MEDLEY
accounting and finance junior

Medical marijuana in Kentucky? Why not?

Rhode Island became the 11th state to legalize medical marijuana and the first since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that patients who use the drug can still be prosecuted under federal law.

Federal law prohibits any use of marijuana; but 10 states allow it to be grown and used for medicinal purposes.

The U.S. high court ruled on June 6 that people who smoke marijuana, because their doctors recommend it, can still be prosecuted under federal laws, even if their states allow it. Federal authorities, however, have conceded they are unlikely to prosecute many medical marijuana users.

Why hasn't Kentucky allowed the use of Marijuana as a medicine? We elect State Representatives, State Senators, U.S. Congressmen, U.S. Senators and Governor, yet none have shown interest in allowing its use. Is their job more important than helping persons in need of this medicine?

I challenge them! Stand up for those who elect you. Show that you care.

DANNY PIGMAN
Lexington



Doug Scott
KENTUCKY COLUMNIST

The Bush administration, still in a delusional state after a few successful Iraqi elections, would have you believe that democracy is taking root in Iraq, where it will thrive. But we're not just talking about Iraq, a country

Note to Readers

The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas.

Unlike news stories, The Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the Opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of The Kernel.

Columnists Needed

The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis.

Columnists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in campus and local issues.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com if you are interested.

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brenton Kenkel or Assistant Opinions Editor Wes Blevins. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

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Getting hip to the 'Hop'



PHOTOS BY ED MATTHEWS | STAFF
Susannah Sizemore, a Communications Junior, and Rasheedah El-Amin, an art administration junior, talk about a sculpture featured in the Rasdall Gallery as part of the Faces of Zimbabwe exhibit. UK alumna Vanessa Shepherd, who is presenting the exhibit, will be at the gallery tonight during Gallery Hop for a meet-and-greet.

By Charilinda Turner Brasher
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

If you are looking for good wine, good conversation and a general good time, you should check out the Gallery Hop tonight. When else will you have the opportunity to view and buy art as well as socialize?

The Gallery Hop, a 12-year tradition in downtown Lexington, benefits art lovers and galleries as well as local businesses and artists. This combination social event and art exhibit is organized by LexArts, formerly the Lexington Arts and Cultural Council.

"The Gallery Hop is basically a self-guided tour of galleries downtown," said Travis Robinson, Community Arts Director of LexArts. The Hop was originally organized by local gallery owners and intended to showcase local artists, said Robinson. There are five "hops" each season that usually take place in September, November, February, April and June. Hops are always on the third Friday of the month.

The festival has seen a tremendous growth in participants over the years; this season there are 34 galleries and museums participating.

While gallery-goers get a free ride for the night, the galleries and studios that host aren't so lucky. Galleries pay an annual fee of \$150 while studios pay \$125.

However, local galleries don't seem to mind the fees. "All that money goes



Three sculptures, each titled "African Man," were brought from Zimbabwe by the artist, Vanessa Shepherd. The exhibition also features original photographs taken by Shepherd.

back into marketing and promoting the Gallery Hop," Robinson said. One of the participant galleries in the Hop, The Ann Tower Gallery, features art by regionally and nationally known artists, and usually has food and drink available for visitors on Gallery Hop nights.

Gallery Hops also work as a tremendous boon to local business.

"We're always crazy busy on (Gallery Hop) nights," said Vanessa Oliver, general manager of Alfalfa Restaurant.

Oliver said the crowds on Gallery Hop night are larger because of the restaurant's proximity to the LexArts and Ann Tower galleries. Alfalfa has a brick wall running the entire length of the restaurant used to feature a new local artist each month. This

month's artist is Kristina Bogdanov.

Bogdanov, a graduate student in the Fine Arts department at UK, thinks the Gallery Hop is a great opportunity, especially for young artists.

"It's the most beneficial for young artists because a lot of people go out and see their work—the publicity is just amazing," Bogdanov said.

Museums and galleries that are somewhat farther from downtown also welcome visitors on Gallery Hop nights. The UK Art Museum, for instance, is open until 8 p.m., with free admission to the ticketed shows every Friday.

Although the UK Art Museum is not preparing any special events for the Gallery Hop tonight, a selection of Olympic posters from the 1972 Munich games

Gallery Hop

- Downtown galleries
- 5 to 8 p.m.
- Free
- Go to www.lexarts.org for maps of participating galleries

will be open. Also at UK in the Rasdall Gallery is "Faces of Zimbabwe," a series that features works by alumnus Vanessa Shepherd. Shepherd will be at the gallery to meet and greet guests.

So if cheese, wine and unique local art are your pleasure for an evening on the town, you really can't miss the festivities tonight.

E-mail
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Q&A with NateFX

DJ to spin with indie-rock staples

Quick, get your dancing shoes and booze ready! A night of bouncy, bassy, electronic gaiety is in store at *The Dame tomorrow*—made possible by DJs Carlos D, (Interpol), Kit Chaps (VHS or Beta), Team Side Tracked (Nate FX and the Showman), and, just for good measure, the ParLOUR Boys. Nate FX is a seasoned spinner, electronics virtuoso and beloved regular at *The Dame* who's been working with accomplished DJs and hip-hop groups for years.

the company of a good lady friend helps take the tension off things.

Q. What's the format of *The Dame* show going to be like? Are you, Carlos D and Kit Chaps going to have separate sets, or will you square off in an epic scratch to the death?

A. Ah ha... This one will not be the scratch battle. Each group has its own agenda on Saturday. DJ Carlos D plays by himself. His style is to lurk in the background and mix records to captivate an audience. Kit Chaps consists of members of VHS or BETA, a band who consistently sells out at *The Dame*. ParLOUR Boys, a local band making big moves, will be playing in between DJ acts. They are dance rock and fit the DJs perfectly to bring a live element to the show. And, Team Side Tracked will open with a set of down tempo ending in electro. That means the kids better get there in a timely fashion, "Team Side Tracked will rock your face!"

Q. Tell me about your previous experiences with Carlos and Kit Chaps.

A. We've been booking VHS or BETA for years, but this is the first time that Kit Chaps or Carlos D have played in Lexington. Normally Carlos plays in New York City or Los Angeles at celebrity events or Interpol after-parties, so this will likely be the only chance to catch him in the Bluegrass. Nate FX has produced many events with other major artists though... Richard Vision, DJ Spooky, DJ Swamp, Nigel Richards, Miles Maeda, De La Soul, Pharcyde, Nappy Roots and KRS-One to name a few of the many.

—COMPILED BY NATHAN TRACER

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It's most beneficial for young artists ... the publicity is just amazing"

—Kristina Bogdanov, a Fine Arts graduate student whose work will be featured at Alfalfa Restaurant tonight

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NateFX
He will be performing at 9 p.m., Saturday at *The Dame*. Also performing will be Carlos D of Interpol and Kit Chaps of VHS or Beta Advanced tickets are \$8, while tickets at the door are \$10.